

Torch of Reason

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J. E. HOSMER Editor
P. W. GEER Manager

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Notice!

A pencil mark here denotes that your subscription will expire with the next number. You are earnestly requested to renew so that you may receive the paper without interruption. We have decided that it is best for all concerned that we do not send papers longer than the time paid for unless so ordered. This will prevent any loss on the part of the Union and we will know just where we stand. We request you to send us the names of Secularists who might become subscribers and we will mail sample copies.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, E. M. 297

We Build.

At last our work of building the University has settled down to a solid basis; the work is progressing finely and those who have signed subscription blanks and others who wish to see us in the new building this fall should forward their donations to us at once.

Freethinkers do not pass the hat every Sunday, but now that we all have a chance, let every one put in all that he or she can and our building will soon be completed.

The first work will be to build a dining hall so as to accommodate all students who come from off. Now, friends this is a grand work and every one should help at once, for you know that the start is always the hardest part of an enterprise because many will wait to see what others are going to do and if it really is going to be a success. Please do not wait but do what you can at once and then others who haven't thought anything about it yet will chip in and the grand work will go on.

We have been doing a little collecting this week in order to get our foundation started and those on whom we have called have responded in a way which makes us happy.

The following have responded with the amounts opposite their names just to get the work started, and most of them are to pay more when called upon:

James Down, Hop grower,	\$ 50.00
J. Wolfard & Co., Merchants,	25.00
M. J. Adams, Banker,	25.00
L. Adams, Lawyer,	5.00
John Porter, Farmer,	50.00
Peter Rauch, Farmer,	40.00
H. L. Eisenhart, Miller,	5.00
Julius Fisher, Farmer,	20.00
Samuel Ames, Hardware,	25.00
L. Ames, Water Works,	25.00
J. H. Porter, Farmer,	10.00

The money is placed in the bank as soon as received and now that we have started to collect let every one respond without further notice so that the work may go right ahead.

The building sight is a beautiful place with fine drainage and good water. The land is level and we will have a fine bicycle and running track to work off some of the surplus energy of our boys and girls, and we will, in as short a time as possible, have a school of which no free thinker need be ashamed.

Two of the licensed lecturers of the O. S. S. U. start out to day and will help us all they can in building the University. We hope that they will be assisted in their work by freethinkers wherever they go, as a little encouragement may be necessary for their future success and if they succeed others will be induced to take up the work.

"Nothing succeeds like success" and although we may make mistakes in our work we hope that the lovers of Humanity will kindly overlook them, and all Secularists help us to succeed by doing what they can to place our Liberal University in a beautiful new home.

The Catholics.

The oldest Christian church, the Mother of all Christian denominations, would be expected to be more nearly like original christianity than the others, and so it is. The Catholics obey those in authority without question; they tell that which is false if it is for the benefit of the church; they keep the layity in ignorance, that they may be better christians; their priests perform miracles; they believe or claim to believe in spirits, and witches; the priests have power to cast out devils; the priests like Jesus and Paul do not marry (bad example), and in thousands of ways the Catholics prove that they are the real Christian church.

Any one who has gone through Mt. Angel and seen the poor nun-taught children who in all probability will never be free from the old devil of superstition, and looked upon the old prison-like school and spook-like church which seems to have a dark, heavy, stagnant appearance can not help crying out, "O, Liberty, Liberty, when wilt thou save our people from the priests' mad greed for power!"

The lesser priests i. e., the protestant preachers, are satisfied with less power but the principle is the same. They are no more God men my friends, than you or I. They know nothing about a future life; they have no proof of a holy book; they are either conscious or unconscious deceivers, and although of less power, of the same nature as the priest.

Let us awake, liberty-loving American Citizens, and shake off

this parasitic, religious leech which is sapping the very life blood of our civilization. Instead of priests of myths give us teachers of science; instead of looking to Christ and him crucified, let us look at Humanity and it mystified; instead of sustaining churches of a living (?) God let us sustain Universities of a living and progressive people.

The Queen and the Sky Pilot.

Dr. Talmage says: "I declare it, fearless of contradiction that the mightiest champion of Christianity today is the throne of England." We wish some one would whisper to the reverend doctor that a person can be a champion of Christianity and yet be cruel, superstitious, and narrow.

It would have been a better thing if he could have truthfully said that Queen Victoria is a great champion of liberty, truth, justice, morality, the home, human rights, virtue, progress or any of these grand principles which mean so much.

Perhaps some enthusiastic christian will say that Christianity includes all these but does it include any, or is it a fact that these are being secured in spite of Christianity?

We feel sorry that our old friend across the water believes in the old fables and folk-lore of the Jews, but we do not despair for we can see a host of young champions coming clad in the armor of science and wielding the sword of truth, who will inaugurate a higher and better civilization—a civilization that will not permit such atrocities as are now being enacted even in sight of the great God houses of our aged queen and reverend sky pilot—a civilization that will not encourage or know wars such as are now being waged and abetted by Christian rulers—a civilization that recognizes true worth as the highest type of character and not an ignorant belief in the cleansing blood of a god-man.

Already a Success.

People have often helped free-thought enterprises and found to their sorrow that they were victims of misplaced confidence, and so they are a little backward about helping sometimes, and we do not blame them, although we find that our work suffers more from this cause than all others put together. In one of our editorials a short time since we spoke of those who were able to help and who would not, as cowards, traitors and slaves; but perhaps in our enthusiasm to show how foolish it is for people to hoard money and lose the happiness that comes from doing good, we offended some who really would help but have been victims of misplaced con-

fidence until they are afraid to help. Our words may have sounded harsh but we wish to assure our readers that we do not wish any to be offended and especially those who are not cowards, traitors or slaves. If there are any free-thinkers to whom these bad names apply, it may set them to thinking and make them better men and women.

If we should allow this work of building the Liberal University to fail without doing all in our power to make it a success we would be cowards and traitors ourselves, but our work cannot fail for we have already had a number of months of successful school work as the following testimonials from students of the University will show:

I am very well pleased with the school. It has been a grand success. I never learned as much in nine months before, as I have learned during the last three months.

REBER ALLEN.

That the Liberal University has been a success, I, and all others, will have to confess; and if we succeed this coming year the religious world will shake with fear.

B. B. SMITH.

I think that the school has been excellent considering the disadvantage the teachers have had to work under. I am very well satisfied for my part. Hoping that it will continue many years, I am yours truly.

F. B. FORWARD.

I have learned very much, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to attend next term. I am your friend.

HARRY DESART.

I am well pleased with the manner in which our school has been conducted during the past three months. It is going to be a grand success.

LEONA ALLEN.

I think our school has been a decided success and I am much pleased with it; it is just what we need. I hope we will soon have the University building.

LORA AMES.

The Liberal University is O. K. I shall never regret the three months I have passed here for I have learned things that will be useful to me in all my future life.

GEORGE RICHES.

These little testimonials taken from many other similar ones, seem to us the very best evidences possible that our work is already a grand success; and with the determination that nothing will stop us from pushing the grand work forward to future victories, we press onward.

The very best legal authorities are being consulted and the Liberal University work will be made perpetual. The present management do not propose to allow their work to go in the same way as the Griad College did.